Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 02546 010924Z ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEA-10 EA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 IO-13 /107 W

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R 010657Z AUG 77 FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4988 INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW USMISSION USUN

CONFIDENTIAL KHARTOUM 2546

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PARM, XO, SU

SUBJECT: US-SOVIET TALKS ON INDIAN OCEAN

REF: A. KHARTOUM 2494, B. STATE 168019

- 1. DURING JULY 29 SPEECH IN WAD TURABI, SMALL TOWN SOUTH OF KHARTOUM, NIMEIRI INFORMED PUBLIC THAT SOVIET CHARGE AND EMBOFF HAD BRIEFED SUDANGOV ON US-SOVIET TALKS ON INDIAN OCEAN. HE SAID SUDANGOV WAS INFORMED USSR AND US HAD DECIDED THAT INDIAN OCEAN BE AREA OF SECURITY AND PEACE. AFTER OBSERVING THAT SOVIET CHARGE WOULD NOT PROVIDE ANY ADDITIONAL INFO, NIMEIRI SAID AMERICAN EMBOFF HAD, IN ANSWER TO SUDANGOV QUERY, ACKNOWLEDGED THAT INDIAN OCEAN DEFINED TO INCLUDE RED SEA AND PERSIAN GULF. NIMEIRI CHARACTERIZED THIS DEVELOPMENT AS FAVORABLE AND THAT IT RESULTED IN RESPONSE TO SUDANESE PRESSURE.
- 2. COMMENT: WE WERE SURPRISED TO SEE NIMEIRI DISCUSS IN SOME DETAIL US-SOVIET INDIAN OCEAN TALKS, PARTICULARLY IN SPEECH WHICH DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO DOMESTIC POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS, NOTABLY NIMEIRI'S PRESENT EFFORTS REACH CONFIDENTIAL.

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PAGE 02 KHARTO 02546 010924Z

ACCOMMODATION WITH OPPOSITION GROUPS. FYI--WAD TURABI IS HOME OF COUNTRY'S LEADING MUSLIM BROTHER. END FYI. APPEARS, HOWEVER, THAT HE INTENDED TO HINT AT SOVIET UNHELPFULNESS IN CONTRAST TO AMERICAN OPENNESS AND TO SUGGEST AS WELL THAT SUDANGOV RED SEA/INDIAN OCEAN POLICY BEING CONSIDERED BY SUPERPOWERS IN THEIR OWN DELIBERATIONS. BERGUS

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